

Stock Raising.

SOUND ADVICE.

In answer to the question, "Shall Merino growers stick to their sheep, or exchange them for or cross them with other breeds, or abandon sheep husbandry altogether?" Dr. Randall gives, in the *Rural New Yorker*, the following sensible reply:

There is no doubt that the interests of individuals and the public require an extension of mutton and long wool production, and the rapid extension which has taken place since the enactment of the tariff of 1867 has proceeded on the solid basis of demand and supply. And there is a margin yet to be filled in the supply. It does not yet meet the demand. The tariff of 1867 came to build up the coarse wool and thereby the mutton interest; it only came to save the fine wool interest from impending destruction. It found the domestic supply of combing wools wholly inadequate to meet the domestic demand—but a handful, so to speak, of combing wool sheep in the country—and no excess of foreign competition to squeeze down prices. On the other hand, it found the country overstocked with wools sufficient to keep down prices for two or three years, the supply of fine wools of the quality chiefly consumed exceeding the existing demand, and a foreign competition (fostered to enormous dimensions by our war demand) so excessive that the foreign grower, shut out by our tariff, was compelled to glut the markets of Europe with wool at prices unremunerative to himself, but which enabled the European manufacturer to compete with the American manufacturer to an extent which still injuriously affected the price of our domestic fine wools.

This state of things was necessarily a transient one, if the wool and woolen tariff continued to stand—for the foreign grower would not and could not continue to produce wools without profit. He kept up the struggle, however, in the hope that our tariff would, as usual be soon repealed or modified. The skin wool evasion, until it was stopped, gave him a strong gleam of hope, and prolonged the struggle. But the signs now are that it is beginning to draw to a close.

By the above general and many minor incidental causes, the mutual relations of prices between coarse and fine wools have been upset. Coarse wools have obtained an unprecedented ascendancy in prices. And the multitude, as usual, are ready to believe that what has been "up" in the market for two or three years will always be up—and what is "down" will stay down. Consequently there is a mania for English sheep, and the fancy is widely entertained by that floating mass of speculating farmers who always chase the last new thing and ride the last new hobby, that the Merino is to be wholly superseded by the mutton sheep in this country—that the former is "played out." What would be the value of mutton in our markets if all the sheep in our country were mutton sheep? What would be the price of combing wools, if our whole product was combing wool? The last question becomes more significant when we consider that the consumption of combing wool reaches only about one-fifth the consumption of clothing wool.

If the wool and woolen tariff stands, both industries will ultimately flourish, and they will assimilate nearer together in profit as the proportion of supply to the demand in each assimilates. There is room for both. Essentially there is no competition between them. Nay, we believe they aid each other.

We will now answer our first question: "Shall Merino growers stick to their sheep?"

We would not stick to them under circumstances clearly the most favorable to mutton sheep, nor would we stick to mutton sheep under circumstances clearly the most favorable to Merino sheep. Under no conditions would we sacrifice really choice sheep of either breed. Especially would we not do it in the case of the Merino. Choice mutton sheep can at any time be imported from England. The hardy, heavy-wooled American Merino—which it has taken fifty years of careful improvement to form and establish—which is so peculiarly adapted to our climate and wants, if allowed to become extinct, could not be re-supplied from any other country, and its loss would be an irreparable one. If wool continues to be adequately protected, the time is not distant when all our choice Merino flock will be needed to breed rams for the great wool-growing flocks of the West and South, and for innumerable smaller flocks in all portions of our country.

PEDIGREE OF GOLDSMITH MAID.

Although it is extensively doubted, by experts, that Goldsmith Maid has really and honestly beaten Dexter's time (2:17) yet no one doubts that she is a remarkable trotter. Many will therefore be glad to know something of her pedigree, which we give below, on the authority of Col. N. J. Colman of St. Louis:

Alexander's Abdallah was known in Orange county, New York, as Edsall's Hambletonian. He got Goldsmith Maid when only two years old. He was purchased by a party in Kentucky and afterwards was sold to R. A. Alexander, the famous stock man, who named him Abdallah. He kept him a number of years, raising many colts by him, and giving him but little training. He beat a field of stallions, on a very heavy track, in Kentucky, in 2:32. Jim Monroe, who drove him, told us that he could drive him, the fall before his death, in 2:23 or 2:24 certainly. He was captured, at Mr. Alexander's farm, by a band of guerillas and was run off. Mr. Alexander valued him so high that he immediately gathered all his farm hands and neighbors and armed them, and getting the fleetest horses they could find gave hot pursuit. They finally overtook the guerillas when a hot battle was fought. In the engagement Abdallah received four severe gun shot wounds, and though Mr. A. got possession of him it was only to see him shortly after lay cold in death. He considered him the most valuable horse he ever owned and grieved greatly at his loss. By scrutinizing his pedigree it will be seen that none better for a getter of trotters could be obtained, for he gets the Messenger blood, not only through his sire, but he gets the Messenger strain also through his dam on the Mambrino side of the house. But for the pedigree.

Abdallah, (formerly Edsall's Hambletonian) bay, foaled 1853, got by Rysdick's Hambletonian, the sire of Dexter. First dam by Bay Roman; he by Imported Roman, out of the Pinkney mare, by old Hickory, &c.; second dam by Mambrino, he by old Mambrino, and he by Imported Messenger.

Messrs. Shedd & Van Sicklen, Burlington, have sold Short-Horns as follows: To L. Barnes of Burlington, Green Mountain Hero 10,172, got by Sir Giles 6185, dam Rosalind by Duke of Gwynne 4730; Lilian, by Sir Giles, out of Lilac by Duke of Gwynne, and Rosette 2d, by Sir Giles, out of Rosette by Duke of Gwynne. To D. Goodell, Brattleboro, Constantia 3d, got by 2d Earl of Oxford 6708, dam Constance 3d by Albion 19,209; to John Emery, Wallingford, Letty, by Duke of Gwynne, dam Lucy Neal by Highflyer; also her heifer calf Letty 2d, got by 2d Earl of Oxford, and Young Ethan, got by 2d Earl of Oxford, dam Penitence by Royal Oxford 18,774; to H. Thorp, Charlotte, Red Rover, got by 2d Earl of Oxford, dam Letty by Duke of Gwynne, as above; to A. B. Conger, Waldberg, N. Y., Flavia, got by Imperial Duke 18,083, dam Euantha by imported Neptune 11,847, and Penitence, by Royal Oxford, dam Peerless by Grand Duke 10,284.

Horticulture.

SUMMER APPLES.

To the Editor of the Vermont Farmer:

Have you not noticed that our farmers in making out a list for a new orchard too frequently show an unwillingness to include the names of summer apples, as well as those of the choicest winter sorts, less profitable to raise than Baldwins or Greenings perhaps, but capable of giving a family much more enjoyment than those famous market sorts? They are ambitious to plant for market only, and neglect to provide a supply of the best fruits for the family the whole year round. He who grows apples will not fail, if he is a liberal-minded man, to promote the health and comfort of his family by planting a selection of the best apples for every month in the year. When he has made such provision, he may plant for market to the full extent of his capacity, and in doing so he will wisely plant but very few sorts, if he regards the highest profit, and among these few the two sorts mentioned above stand prominent, and also in planting to this end he will be cautious about employing, except to meet a local demand, the early apples here recommended for home use. Their perishable nature renders such an enterprise a hazardous one.

Under the term of Summer Apples we will include those that ripen in the Valley of Lake Champlain throughout August and September, and of those which immediately succeed them we may have something to say at another time.

The long-keeping Russets need not all have disappeared from their shelves in the cellar, when the yellow Early Harvest begins to come in at the kitchen door in the aprons of the children. This is our best very early sort, though its acid is a little sharp for some tastes. Its flesh is of so delicate texture, that it will not bear much handling nor carry far to market, and unless the tree grows on warm and rich soil the fruit is small, knotty and cracked. Even with the extra care it requires one or two trees are indispensable. Began to ripen here this year August 1st.

Hard on the Early Harvest follows the Red Astrachan, ripening in succession all through August, so that the trees present the curious spectacle of bearing red and green apples on the same bough. Though it is even more acid than the Early Harvest, and does not possess the rich quality of that variety, its undoubted hardness of tree renders it quite as important as that. For another very hardy apple, plant in our coldest districts with the Red Astrachan another Russian apple, the Tetofsky. Both are vigorous growers, bearing young and abundantly, and adapting themselves to all soils. Planted for market these would probably return more money than any other two sorts.

Coming about the time of Early Harvest, there is the Early Red Margaret. It is a good apple, of milder acidity than Early Harvest, but only a moderate bearer. And about the time of Red Astrachan we have the Summer Queen, handsome in tree and fruit, but with us the latter is coarse and dry.

The Summer Rose begins to ripen about the 10th of August, and continues nearly a month. It is a beautiful little apple of remarkably tender flesh, mild flavor, juicy and refreshing. It does not excel in productiveness, but we cannot do without it for a dessert fruit. The Sops of Wine is a favorite with some. For its free growth, productiveness and fair fruit it is valuable. The flesh is quite dry, but it may be improved in this respect by ripening in the house. With us it seems to

grow rather small of late. One of the sorts most grown for market in this valley is the Summer Pippin of Downing and Thomas. It is the Tart Bough or Sour Bough of others, and is generally known here as Champlain. The tree is vigorous, forming a beautiful head, and is a regular and good bearer. The fruit is inferior in quality to Early Harvest, but the flesh is tender and of an excellent sub-acid flavor—an excellent variety for cooking. Two weeks later than Early Harvest. Garretson's Early is of much the same character, and its season is the same or a trifle later. The tree is vigorous and productive; the fruit very large and fair. Considered here a very valuable apple.

For a sweet apple for August we have nothing to compare in popularity with the Early Sweet Bough. The tree is not quite hardy even in this valley, and is of slow growth. But give it a choice situation, and it is a regular, though not a great bearer. Fruit very sweet, tender and rich. Every one should have one tree at least. It is a first favorite with the children.

We often meet here with another sweet apple which immediately succeeds the Sweet Bough. I have heard it called Bennington Sweet, and have been told that the original tree stood on the battle field of Bennington. It is hardy and of vigorous growth; fruit large and varying from green to nearly red. The large, well-colored specimens have a good flavor and are tender and juicy, but those imperfectly colored retain a raw, bitterish taste.

As indispensable as the Sweet Bough, and to fill the place of a sweet apple from the middle of September almost till winter, is the Golden Sweeting. It is a great bearer; the fruit large, a rich sweet, perhaps a little too dry for the table, but fine for baking.

Among the very best table apples for summer are the Benoni, Early Joe and Primate. The tree of Benoni resembles that of the Northern Spy in its habit of growth, is hardy, vigorous and productive. The fruit is large and handsome; its flesh tender, rich sub-acid. It was pronounced at the last meeting of the Champlain Valley Horticultural Society our best summer apple. Ripens the last of August. The Early Joe ripening about the same time, is an exceedingly delicious fruit. It possesses a rare combination of sugar and acid which gives it a peculiarly rich, vinous flavor. Of all apples it most resembles the pear in character. But the tree is a slow grower though productive, and the fruit is small. The Primate ripens later, is of good size, very fair, fine grained, very juicy, with a very agreeable, mild, sub-acid, flavor. The tree, however, is a remarkably slow grower, trees in my orchard remaining mere shrubs with round, compact heads, while other varieties of the same age around them have reached five times their size.

Early Strawberry is justly held in high estimation. Its quality is not so fine as that of those just mentioned, but it has a peculiar, berry-like flavor. The trees are handsome growers, generally good bearers, and mature their fruit by degrees, so as to remain in eating a long time. The Primate and Williams' Favorite bring us through to the fall apples. The latter is a handsome apple, medium to large, mild and rich; tree grows freely and bears abundantly. In some parts of our valley it is held in the highest repute.

As my eye runs down this list of summer apples, what visions of ripe fruit arise in my mind! And such ripe fruit, beautiful to the eye in its red and green and yellow coats, and luscious and refreshing to the taste, almost any farmer in Vermont may command for the entertainment of his family and friends through all the sultry weeks of summer.

C. G. PRINGLE.

Charlotte, Vt.